

yesterday that the Ypres front might soon be the scene of another great enemy effort.

May Strike at Arras

Marcel Hutin, who states that he interviewed M. Clemenceau immediately upon the latter's return from the front, says in the "ECHO de Paris" that he believes the Germans will direct their next attack toward Arras or "further north." Other French critics hold the belief that Ludendorff will concentrate his chief forces against Amiens.

But the new attack on the front of about eleven miles, just south of the Somme, where the British and French lines join, reported by Marshal Haig to-night, may mean the enemy feels himself strong enough to lengthen out his present salient. At the present writing the situation has not developed sufficiently to be certain on this point.

The German-Swiss frontier will be closed to-morrow indefinitely.

Hold Up Drive in Italy

With the improvement of the weather on the Italian front a resumption of hostilities there at an early date is anticipated. However, it is considered unlikely that the Austrians, who will receive little German assistance this time, will begin operations until the second phase of the Western campaign has been decided.

North of Montdidier the French and Germans engaged to-day in a lively artillery duel, followed by heavy fighting up to the Somme. Elsewhere between Arras and La Fere the front has been comparatively quiet.

On the Somme in 1916 there were several times when the British were within an ace of smashing the German lines. In November last the British pierced the enemy defenses at Cambrai and had a big victory within their grasp, only to lose it through hesitation.

That hesitation decided Ludendorff to strike on the Somme instead of some other sector.

In the first battle of Ypres the Germans hesitated just a moment when the British thought it was impossible to defend the line more than four hours longer. Had the enemy persisted Calais might have been his.

The margin between success and failure is often measured by the foot of a trench, as many British soldiers can testify. In the first week of the world's greatest battle the Germans hesitated at crucial moments.

On the third day they broke the alignment of the Third and Fifth British armies, and nothing stood between them and Amiens, their goal. They hesitated. Slowly the line reformed and the defense stiffened and the day was saved.

Again, at Courcellette, when von Hutier's army was moving westward like an avalanche, the enemy made an opening, and things looked black for the British. Again, hesitation, and again the fates and British courage saved the Allies from disaster.

In Rumania, at Verdun and on the Pieve this hesitation played a big part. Both sides have organized great thrusts with marvellous forethought, soldiers have fought with magnificent courage, but always at the critical moment something has gone wrong. Either the troops were slow in coming up, telephone wires to headquarters were cut, or the weather has broken badly, always some small unit among a million others failed.

Just now rain is turning the Somme battlefield into a great mushy country, similar to the Ypres salient, where Haig's troops floundered about for weeks before finally capturing the ridge.

Mechanics From America Speed Up British Air Drive

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 4.—Mechanics from the American air squadron have been doing excellent work in various British airdromes during the present battle. These men are serving in considerable numbers, and their help has been exceedingly valuable in the time when the British have been having such intense warfare.

There have been places where there were concentrations of hundreds of fighting machines, and it meant untold labor for the mechanics. Some of the airmen have been making as many as six trips in a single night. One hard-working squadron dropped the huge tail of a ton of bombs in one night.

The record of the "wonder corps" has been remarkable. As an instance, one aviator shot down six German machines in one day.

German People Warned Not To Expect Too Much

OTTAWA, April 4.—The German press is warning its readers not to expect too much of the offensive in the West, says a Reuter dispatch to-day from London. The "Cologne Gazette" says the German press is prevalent in Germany regarding the extent of the German "victory" and are inspired by the enemy, who is exaggerating the Teutonic successes.

The war correspondent of the "Frankfurter Zeitung" says that hitherto it has been impossible exactly to estimate the German losses, but it is unnecessary to jump to the conclusion that they are enormous because the story was difficult. He states that the enemy's resistance is hardening and has been favored by rain and stormy weather, that have greatly hampered the offensive.

The "German-Swiss Zurich Post" war expert writes that Germany has been unable to hinder the carefully planned deployment of the Anglo-French reserves, and the continuance of the violent attacks demands immense sacrifices.

The "Frankfurter Zeitung" attacks von Hindenburg for attempting to override the Reichstag. It appears that von Hindenburg telegraphed the vice-president of the Reichstag as follows:

"The fresh sacrifices of blood forced upon us have not been made for nothing. I know that the Reichstag understands this and that it will champion a strong German peace."

The newspaper, commenting on this, says: "With all the respect and admiration with which we treat a commander, we feel that von Hindenburg's intervention in politics is the most serious thing that has happened as yet since the German revolution. He is encouraging the pan-German reactionists, who are already exploiting the Western offensive for the purpose of altering the Reichstag's war aims."

U. S. Aid Growing In Importance, Says German War Writer

AMSTERDAM, March 22 (by mail).—The German aid is gaining gradually in importance with respect to the coming

WHERE AMERICANS HAVE TAKEN OVER SECTOR



Somewhere on the line of hills running north and south parallel to and east of the Meuse River, southeast of Verdun, Americans have taken over a new part of the front, it was announced yesterday. The hills are marked on the above map "Cotes de Meuse" ("Heights of the Meuse"). The battle line follows in a general way the eastern edge of the heights to a point where it sweeps west to St. Mihiel.

decision," writes Karl Roemer, war correspondent of the "Lokal Anzeiger," of Berlin, on the Western front. He says: "The value of America's assistance, which formerly was confined to supplies of all kinds of materials and equipment, has grown as the Germans have been getting their hands free in the East. It is of especial importance to Germany's opponents, inasmuch as American divisions are expected to replace the Russians and Rumanians."

"The German chief command, however, possesses fairly full knowledge of the numbers and degree of efficiency of the American forces on the Continent. Adequate measures have been taken, and from the advent of the new enemy no turn of war's fortune, not even any serious obstacle in the way of a definite German victory, is apprehended."

"Interesting information about the Americans in France has been obtained from French prisoners captured recently near Tabora. They say the American preparations are most extensive and the troops are settling down as if they intended to remain for years. They are laying down their own railroads and building telegraph and telephone lines, possibly with the ultimate view of doing a profitable business after the war."

"French prisoners describe eloquently the solidly built and comfortably equipped American barracks and make a point that the Americans keep pretty much aloof from their French allies. Thus, the Americans remain strangers in the land and the French have no real intercourse with them."

Women Red Cross Workers Stick to Posts to Last Hour

PARIS, April 4.—As the excitement incident to the first few days of the German offensive dies down reports come in of the bravery in face of danger of various workers in the American Red Cross.

Women workers of the Red Cross who were aiding civilians in reconstruction and relief work at Villequier, near the River Somme, left their posts just two hours before the Germans arrived in the town. With their automobiles they aided in removing the civilians and picking up many wounded along the roads. The women were the last civilians to leave the town, just preceding the French troops.

Another Red Cross unit, stationed in a hospital just back of the lines, was ordered to evacuate in two hours. They left at 2 o'clock in the morning, and were charged for miles by a German aviator before reaching a point of safety. The next day the unit went to a town near the fighting line and established soup kitchens for the troops and first aid stations for sick refugees and wounded stragglers. The town was under continuous shell fire, and the unit answered calls at all hours to give first aid to those wounded by the enemy shells.

The unit then took over complete charge of the operating ward in a hospital, the nurses working in twelve-hour shifts in attending to a dozen wounded soldiers who were injured too seriously to be carried further back. The women also acted as stretcher bearers throughout the hospital and took over a hotel in the town and conducted it for the use of Red Cross workers and British and French fliers. They carried tea and coffee to soldiers on transports and wagons as they moved through the town. Some of the men had not had anything to eat for many hours, sleeping on the horses or along the roadside under all kinds of weather conditions, including a heavy rain.

Four American army medical officers attached to a Red Cross hospital behind the Franco-British front declared their intention of remaining there "until hell froze," despite the removal of the patients to points of safety by automobiles. The drivers of the motor cars returned with a few American Red Cross nurses, and the nurses and the

12 German Airplanes, One Balloon Destroyed

LONDON TELLS OF BATTLE OF LARGE AERIAL SQUADRONS ON WESTERN FRONT

LONDON, April 4.—The official statement on aviation issued by the War Office to-night reads:

"Wednesday was again unfavorable for flying, but this did not prevent our airplanes from making several flights to reconnoitre the battlefield and attack ground targets with bombs and machine guns. One flight occurred during a clear interval between two very large formations of our own and enemy machines. Otherwise hostile aircraft were not very active."

"Nine German machines were shot down, three were driven out of control, and one hostile balloon was destroyed. Five of our airplanes are missing."

Allied Aviators Kill Many in Foe's Cities

AMSTERDAM, April 4.—Dispatches to "Les Nouvelles" state that on the occasion of the last Allied air raid on Long twenty-six persons were killed and a hundred wounded. Great damage was done, the railroad station being demolished. In the last raid on Treves sixty were killed and hundreds wounded. The railroad station was damaged and streets in the neighborhood were heaped with ruins.

In a raid last week the Cologne station was hit and many buildings were destroyed. A troop train standing in the station was struck and many occupants were killed or wounded. The Emperor visited the spot the following day.

German Flier Decorated

VON RICHTHOFEN CREDITED WITH 75 AERIAL VICTORIES

AMSTERDAM, April 4.—Emperor William has conferred upon Baron von Richthofen, the German aviator, the Order of the Red Eagle with crown and swords.

A German official statement on Thursday said Baron von Richthofen had won his seventy-fifth aerial victory. The Baron, who is now a captain in the German army, first came into prominence as leader of the "Flying Circus," a squadron of German aviators who fought in a peculiar circular formation, following each other around so that if one was attacked the next flier could sweep the antagonist from behind.

Foch Victory Predicted

Count de Chambrun Says He Will Repeat Joffre's Fate

BALTIMORE, April 4.—Marchal Joffre's victory at the Marne in 1914 will be duplicated by General Foch, Count Charles de Chambrun, counsellor of the French Embassy, predicted to-day in an address delivered on the occasion of "French Day" at Baltimore's "Over There" Liberty Loan exhibition.

"With the heroism of sublime faith and the determination which brings victory," he declared, "France faces the most formidable attack that the world has seen since the irons of Attila. What the Roman general did in defeating the 'Scourge of God,' what Joffre succeeded in doing in 1914, General Foch will do to-morrow."

Kuehlmann Plans Speech After Talk With Kaiser

AMSTERDAM, April 4.—At an important conference held to-day at German headquarters between the Emperor, Field Marshal von Hindenburg, General von Ludendorff and Dr. Richard F. von Kuehlmann, the Foreign Minister, Count Czernin's speech was discussed. It is understood that Dr. von Kuehlmann will deliver an important speech at his earliest opportunity.

Count Czernin is expected at headquarters early next week.

The Berlin papers comment on Count Czernin's speech in contradictory terms. The "Boersen Courier" says Count Czernin evidently does not think that the offensive on the Western front has paralyzed the possibility of an understanding. The "Tageszeitung" attacks the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister for "his weak placidity." The "Lokalanzeiger" says: "Berlin will be particularly glad to hear of the manner in which Count Czernin rejected the peace offer of Clemenceau."

The Official Statements

LONDON, April 4.—The British War Office to-day gave out the following statements:

NIGHT.—After heavy artillery preparation the enemy launched a strong attack this morning on the whole front, between the Somme and Avesnois. On the right and centre of the British lines the attacking German infantry were repulsed, but on the left the weight of the assault succeeded in pressing back our troops for a short distance in the neighborhood of Hamel, on the south bank of the Somme. The fighting is continuing in this area.

Early in the afternoon the enemy also attacked our line west of Albert and was completely repulsed.

During the last few days there has been heavy fighting south of the River Luce. A Canadian cavalry brigade greatly distinguished itself in many successful actions, both mounted and dismounted.

EVENING.—North of the Somme there is no change. South of the Somme the enemy launched heavy attacks early this morning on the British and French forces, and on the British front made progress in the direction of Hamel and Vaire Wood. On the remainder of the British front all attacks were beaten back with considerable loss. The fighting still continues. On the French front, immediately on our right, the enemy gained ground in the angle between the rivers Luce and Avesnois.

DAY.—During the night a German machine gun post in the neighborhood of Hebuterne was rushed by our troops and the machine gun captured. A few prisoners were brought in on other parts of the battlefield.

Beyond hostile artillery activity at different points on the battlefield and also in the Menin road and Passchendaele sectors there is nothing further to report.

Slight Gains Cost Heavily, Paris Announces

PARIS, April 4.—The French War Office to-day gave out the following:

NIGHT.—The battle was resumed this morning with extreme violence in the region north of Montdidier, and still continues. On a front of about fifteen kilometers (nine miles), from Grivesnes as far as north of the road between Amiens and Roye, the Germans attacked with enormous forces, showing a firm determination to break through our front at any cost. Up to the present we have identified by prisoners eleven army divisions.

Our troops, with intrepid courage, resisted the shock of the assailant masses, who were mowed down by our artillery fire.

Despite their efforts, ten times repeated, the Germans succeeded, at the cost of sanguinary sacrifices, in gaining only a few hundred meters of terrain and occupying the villages of Mailly-Raineval and Morisel, the neighboring heights of which we hold.

Grivesnes, which was attacked with particular violence, remained in the hands of our troops, who, after having broken down all the assaults, counter-attacked with vigor and realized progress at this point.

Between Montdidier and Lassigny there was great activity by the two artilleries.

DAY.—The artillery fighting became very violent during the night in the region north of Montdidier.

Northwest of Rheims, in the Champagne and on the left bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) French troops penetrated German trenches at several points, bringing back thirty prisoners and two machine guns. German raids east of Rheims, in Avesnois Wood and north of St. Die, were without success.

Won Successes Below Somme, Says Berlin

BERLIN, April 4.—The German War Office to-day gave out the following:

NIGHT.—During the continuation of our attack south of the Somme fresh successes have been won.

As reprisals for the French bombardment of our shelters in Laon in the past few days, Rheims has been subjected to our fire.

DAY.—Fighting activity revived south of the Somme. By means of surprise and after strong artillery preparation the enemy during the early morning and afternoon four times vainly endeavored to recapture heights wrested from him southwest of Moreuil. This attack broke down with heavy losses.

Before Verdun and at Parrey Wood there was at times a more lively firing engagement.

Allies Ready To Repel New German Drive

to fight for Alsace-Lorraine, as if the Eastern settlement effected with Russia were final and no longer an issue in the war.

This is the position taken in the "Berlin Vorwärts," the leading German Socialist newspaper, expressing the liberal opinion to which President Wilson does not resort in his war aims, and discussing the recent Socialist and labor statement of war aims adopted in London, accepts the Eastern settlement with complacency. German socialists do not resist the German annexations at the expense of Russia. On the West front the Allies can have, says "Vorwärts," "in the main" the situation as it was before the war. If the Allies do not resist the German annexations, the German people can only obtain it "by an Entente victory." In the present lust of victory "Vorwärts" is as hysterical as if it were edited by a Hohenzollern.

Austria Throws Off Its Mask

Whatever peace offensive is conducted along with this great effort to reach a military decision will be along the line of Austria's latest speech. In this speech Austria throws off its mask and frankly aligns herself with Germany in the determination to win the war with arms. The Austrian Premier laughs at this country's simple statement of war aims adopted in London, accepts the Eastern settlement with complacency. German socialists do not resist the German annexations at the expense of Russia. On the West front the Allies can have, says "Vorwärts," "in the main" the situation as it was before the war. If the Allies do not resist the German annexations, the German people can only obtain it "by an Entente victory." In the present lust of victory "Vorwärts" is as hysterical as if it were edited by a Hohenzollern.

Rome Says Austria's Words and Deeds Are Contradictory

WASHINGTON, April 4.—The Italian Embassy received the following cable from Rome to-day:

"Italian political circles consider the speech of Count Czernin as the cleverest manifestation of the Austro-German pro-peace propaganda. In spite, however, of the apparently graceful tone of Czernin's polemic with President Wilson in order to assure him that Austria recognizes his sympathies for her, the Italian press finds that the Austrian Premier's acceptance of the four fundamental points of President Wilson's second message is Italy contradicted by the very recent actions of Austria. In fact, a tremendous concentration of forces is being made against Italy and Count Czernin's declared in his speech that the French and Italian aspirations are 'foolish Utopias.'"

The Austro-German ministers, after theoretically admitting some of the Maximalist points at Brest-Litovsk, immediately have occupied a large section of the Italian territory, thus showing once more that there is never a correspondence between words and deeds in Germany and Austria. The Austrian press at the same time discusses the immigration problem in such a way as to put Austria in the same class with Germany in regard to the imperialistic aims of the Central Empires.

"The Italian press finds that the alleged respect for the integrity of other nations on the part of Austria cannot be reconciled with the repeated assertions that Italy and Austria must be occupied and kept. At Gratz, a German commission has passed a resolution to the effect that Trieste must be assured to the Central Empires by a further rectification of the Italian frontier. The same motion advocates the immigration to the Asiatic shores of Germanic populations to replace the Italian and Slavie elements living there."

"The irreducible contradiction between words and actions or projects is thus emphasized."

Allies Pay Little Heed To Czernin

Interest in Battle Too Great to Permit Peace Discussion

Struggle in West To Decide Issue

Public Mind on Army, but Wilson Speech Is Eagerly Awaited

By Arthur S. Draper (Boston Cable Service)

LONDON, April 4.—The full text of the speech of Foreign Minister Czernin was not published until this evening. Coming at this critical moment, when the great European nations are engaged in a death struggle from which they are powerless to free themselves, Czernin's utterances make little impression. The momentum of the war is now so great that no peace feature can check it.

Three weeks back there was a possibility the belligerents might come to a peace by this agreement, but that was swept aside when Allied statesmen learned the terms which the enemy proposed.

Dare Not Break With Germany

Austria wants peace badly, and Czernin could not camouflage the seriousness of the economic situation of the Dual Monarchy, but her leaders dared not break with Germany and dare not break away.

Czernin is a wise statesman and extremely moderate, according to enemy standards. He would gladly quit the war position. Unquestionably, all Europe is for peace, but the moment has not arrived. Much hard fighting remains and great sacrifices must be made. The very fury of the peace will hasten the day when the peoples will return to normal living, but now every thought is concentrated on war, and Czernin's speech fails to divert attention from the battlefield.

Only Soldiers in Public Eye

It is amazing how widespread is the belief that this is the last year of the war. Whether it will be justified by events none can say. Soldiers and civilians are of the same opinion. In the final state there are no quitters. President Wilson's speech is awaited here with the deepest interest, because he is recognized here as the spokesman of the masses of all Allied countries. But statesmen generally are not in high repute at the moment. The people are placing their faith in soldiers, yet Wilson's words will carry great weight.

Clemenceau Reply to Czernin Pleases Rome

PARIS, April 4.—A Havas dispatch from Rome says:

"Political circles are unreservedly satisfied by ex-Premier Clemenceau giving the lie to Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister. It is now hoped that the legend of a possible agreement with Austria and separate peace is forever dissipated. In the face of repeated shameless bad faith shown by her spokesmen, Austria is regarded as more than ever Germany's slave. By her Germany succeeded in making war and by her Germany is now trying to make peace."

Serbian Minister Confirms Clemenceau

PARIS, April 4.—Premier Clemenceau told the exact truth in his terse declaration that "Czernin lied," his rejection of the statement of Count Czernin that he had required the French intermediary whether Austria-Hungary was ready to negotiate. Dr. M. R. Vespitch, Serbian Minister to France, solemnly affirmed in a speech at the American Club lunch to-day.

When asked if there were no fire under this extraordinary smoke, Dr. Vespitch replied:

"Not a spark."

\$1,675,600,000 French Budget Is Adopted

PARIS, April 4.—The Chamber of Deputies to-day adopted as its entirety the budget for the second quarter of 1918, amounting to \$1,675,600,000 francs (approximately \$1,675,600,000).

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